

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Final Official Action provided. Applicants also note that the Examiner has not indicated that the drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson on a Form PTO-948. The Examiner is thus requested to indicate that Applicants' drawings are acceptable in the next Official Action.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-17.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claim 1 will have been amended, and claim 15 will have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 16-19 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-19 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EBRAHIMIAN (U.S. Patent No. 4,738,018). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 15. Since such an amendment is equivalent to rewriting claim 15 in independent form and since the Examiner has indicated that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is believed that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over EBRAHIMIAN.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-5, 18, and 19, which are at least patentable due to their dependency from claim 1 for the reasons noted above, recite additional features of the invention and are also separately patentable over the prior art of record based on the additionally recited features.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-19.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the proposed amendment is proper for entry since it merely rewrites dependent claim 15 into independent form, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and it is also submitted that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in claims 1-14 and 16-19.

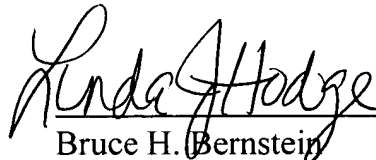
Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

P21732.A07

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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